

OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

vidual who had contributed to his losses, or against himself. His former enemies lost much of their old feelings toward him in admiration of his uncomplaining acceptance of a fate which, without fault of his own, thus came to overshadow the close of his career. A sale of his property at that time would have been the merest sacrifice; and he refused unconditionally to accept a loan or gift from the State treasury, as was suggested by his friends. Early in 1826, he petitioned the legislature to allow him to dispose of his personal effects by lottery, a means, as he wrote Madison, "often resorted to before the Revolution to effect large sales, and still in constant usage in every State for individual as well as corporation purposes. If it is permitted in my case, my land here alone, with the mills, etc., will pay everything, and leave me Monticello and a farm free. If refused, I must sell everything here, perhaps considerable in Bedford, move thither with my family, where I have not even a log hut to put my head into, and whether ground for burial, will depend upon the depredations, which, under the form of sales, shall have been committed upon my property." He also drew up for submission to the legislature a paper called "Thoughts on Lotteries," his last document of a public nature. In it he took the ground that there was nothing immoral in a lottery scheme of itself, for every pursuit might in a certain sense be said to be a lottery; and he cited numerous instances of its employment in Virginia for various public enterprises, for private societies and individuals, and even for religious congregations. The threatened opposition died out, and the bill to authorize his request was passed without trouble. But it was not carried into effect during Jefferson's lifetime. Other States through their large cities came forward and fulfilled the duty which Virginia neglected. Sums were raised by popular subscription, and promptly forwarded to him. He had no hesitation in receiving these, and he did so with a feeling of mingled gratitude and pride that his public services were thus remembered. As it was, when the lottery was held it failed to realize the half of the sum hoped for; and his lands put up for sale fell far short of their original cost. It was a blessing that Jeffer-